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**TIMELESS AND POWERFUL 'CABARET'  
TO TAKE THE STAGE AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON**

DAYTON, Ohio — It broke the musical mold and barriers. It's unsettling; even disturbing.

And its staying power has been incredible. Though set in pre-World War II Berlin, *Cabaret* is a timeless and powerful musical with a provocative message that will touch generations to come, according to the director of the latest local production of the play.

The multi-Tony Award winning hit, currently enjoying a second revival on Broadway, will open at the University of Dayton at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 19, at the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. Additional shows will be performed at 8 p.m. March 20, 25, 26 and 27, and at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 21.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for UD students and faculty, \$7 for non-UD students and \$6 each for groups of 10 or more. Tickets can be purchased through the Kennedy Union box office at (937) 229-2545 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Stage director Gina Kleesattel said two concurrent plots share the storyline in *Cabaret*, which takes place just before the rise of Nazi and Communist forces in Germany — an exploration of the extreme decadence of the cabaret show clubs of that era and the emotional trials of a German woman in love with a Jewish man.

Kleesattel said *Cabaret* broke the Broadway mold by serving as more of a political statement than the traditional "feel good" production popular to audiences when it premiered in 1967 as the first "concept" musical where the message is stronger than any individual plot line.

"Broadway was used to stories with nice, happy endings," Kleesattel said. "But in *Cabaret*, everything's not tied up so nicely. It presents some very difficult issues, and that

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makes us think about politics and the impact it has on our own society. I think that's why the show continues to be so popular. It was first revived on Broadway in 1987 — that's the version we have the rights to — and again in 1997."

Kleesattel said the show is as entertaining and "fun to see" as it is thought provoking, and she encourages repeat viewers and especially young adult first-timers to see the play.

Kleesattel is a UD alumna and freelance writer and director residing in Cincinnati. She was recently named artistic director for the Kincaid Regional Theatre in Falmouth, Ky. *Cabaret* is the fifth musical she has directed at the university, and she is joined at the production helm by Mark Twehues, music director and artist-in-residence at UD.

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For media interviews, call **Gina Kleesattel** at (513) 321-1087.